



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, September 2006

The Draft Removal Action Workplan For The Mountain Oaks Charter School And Mountain Ranch Community School Is Available For Your Review

The Calaveras County Office of Education (CCOE) plan to build a new charter school, Mountain Oaks Charter School, (kindergarten to 12th grade) and a community school, Mountain Ranch Community School (6th to 12th grade). Both schools will be located at 1250 Pool Station Road, San Andreas, Calaveras County, California 95249. The school site consists of 7.74 acres of undeveloped land. During site investigations, levels of naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) were found in the soils across the site. When NOA is found on a school site, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) requires school districts to submit a workplan to reduce potential exposure to asbestos before beginning construction of a school.

DTSC is a part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. One important function of DTSC is to oversee soil and groundwater investigations to identify the presence of hazardous waste materials or contamination and if found, oversee the cleanup of the property.

The cleanup of the site and the construction of the new schools will enable the City of San Andreas to provide services to the Mountain Oaks community and local businesses. The new schools will provide one location for graduations, sports events, student dramatic productions, and other activities. The new schools will also provide new economic development in the community with community services, employments, and training opportunities for students and local businesses.

The draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) proposes actions to minimize release of NOA from soils into the air during construction of the school. The draft RAW is available for your review at the information repositories listed on page four of this fact sheet. The purpose of this environmental process is to ensure that the site will provide a safe environment for students, faculty, and staff of the new school.

Public Comment Period

We encourage you to review and comment on the draft RAW. DTSC will hold a 30-day public comment period beginning September 19, 2006 and ending October 18, 2006. All e-mailed comments must be sent to DTSC no later than 5 p.m. on October 18, 2006. Mail written comments to:

Mr. Bud Duke
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
or by e-mail to Bduke@dtsc.ca.gov.



This fact sheet will provide the following information:

- Site history and background
- Investigation findings
- What is Naturally Occurring Asbestos
- Summary of the draft Removal Workplan
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps

Site history and background

The site has been open undeveloped land since at least 1902. In 1962, the property was used for ranching purposes (low-density cattle grazing) and is currently listed as open land.

Investigation findings

Two site investigations (Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and Preliminary Environmental Assessment) were conducted between August and December 2005. The investigations evaluated environmental impacts and determined the extent of the contamination. During the investigations, it was determined that site contained NOA minerals. The NOA minerals collected from the site were

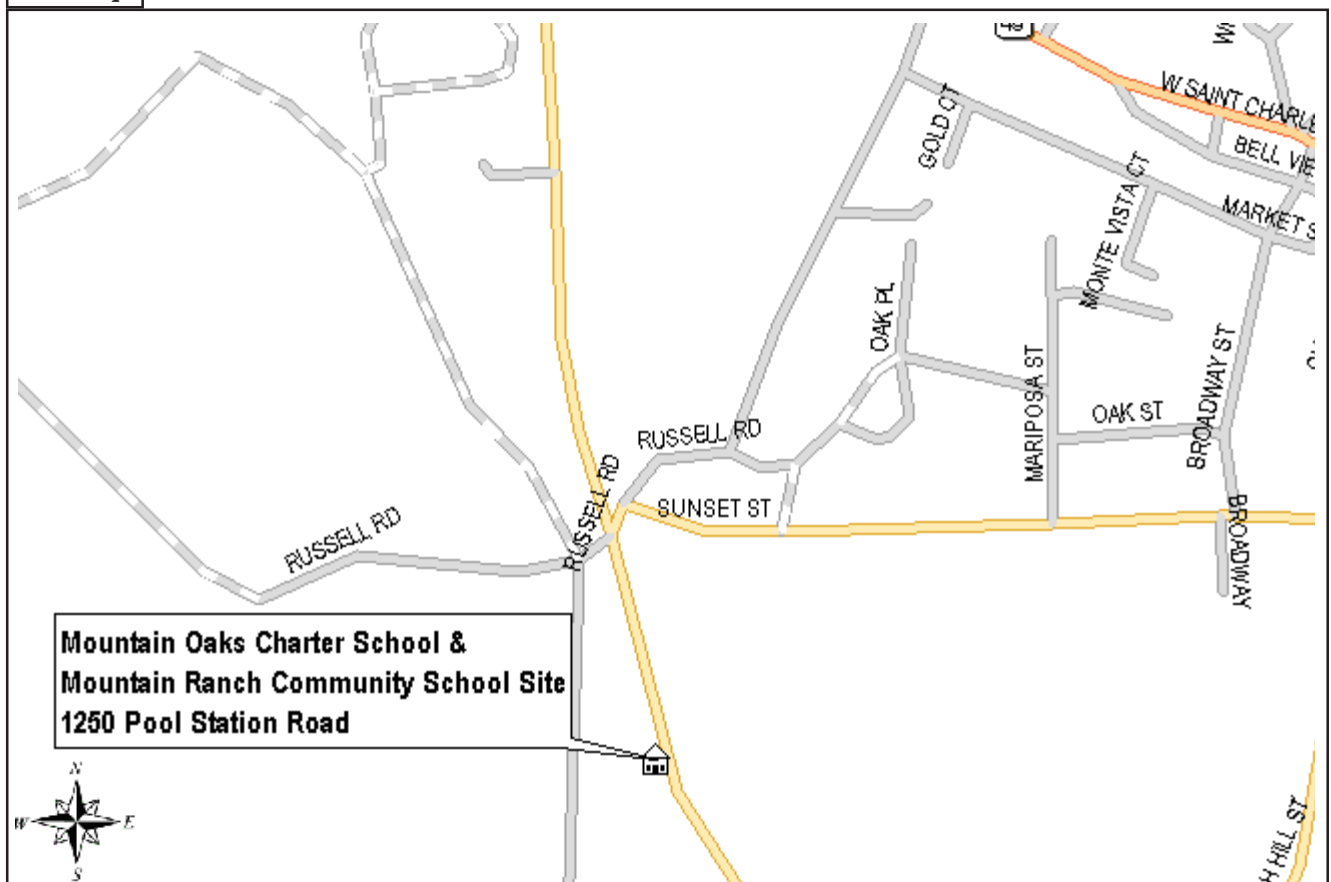
identified as actinolite and/or chrysotile asbestos. Based on findings in these reports, DTSC has required further action to address the NOA on the site. Because the NOA levels pose a potential threat to human health, DTSC recommends actions are taken during school construction to cover or cap soils to reduce future exposures to the NOA.

What is Naturally Occurring Asbestos?

NOA includes a group of minerals commonly found in ultramafic and Serpentine rock formations. NOA can also be found in rock near fault zones or in sediments derived from these rocks. Ultramafic rock is made up of 90 percent or more of dark colored iron-magnesium-silicate minerals. Serpentine commonly occurs in metamorphic areas throughout the state.

NOA can be released when the rock is broken or crushed. This may happen when cars drive over unpaved roads or driveways surfaced with these rocks, or when land is graded for building purposes. NOA is also released naturally through weathering and erosion. Once released from rock,

Site Map



asbestos can become airborne. The primary pathway for human exposure to asbestos is through inhalation of dust particles containing asbestos. All forms of asbestos may cause serious health effects, including respiratory disease or cancer.

Draft Removal Action Workplan

The primary objective of the proposed actions described in the draft RAW is to reduce potential future exposure to NOA in the soil on the school site. The draft RAW summarizes previous studies, and evaluates cleanup options based on their effectiveness, ability to be implemented, and cost. DTSC will review and consider comments received during the 30-day public comment period before making a final decision regarding approval of the proposed alternatives.

Summary of Proposed Draft RAW

The cleanup plan proposed in the RAW is to cover the soils containing NOA, to reduce the possibility of airborne asbestos. The cover or cap will be comprised of landscape (fill, sod, native grasses, plants, shrubs, bushes, etc.) or hardscape (buildings, concrete, asphalt, rubberized playing surfaces, etc.). Approximately 10,000 cubic yards of clean imported fill will be brought to the site, to be placed beneath playfields and planters. Landscaped areas will include placement of a geotextile fabric, to act as a warning barrier directly above soils containing NOA, to alert all personnel who will later conduct subsurface maintenance or repairs. The geotextile fabric will be covered by non-asbestos containing clean fill.

Normal construction features such as building pads, sidewalks, asphalt, and some landscaping effectively act to cap soil containing asbestos. These construction features are not part of the formal mitigation efforts presented in the RAW. The following additional proposed mitigation activities will take place during school construction:

- Placing geotextile fabric in playfields and landscape areas, then covering fabric with a minimum of 6-inches of clean soil;
- Placing erosion control blankets, such as netting, over sloped areas;
- Developing an ongoing Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M Plan) to control,

manage, and report future potential disturbances of soils containing NOA.

What you will see during school construction

If the plan is approved, you may see the following activities associated with the mitigation activities:

- Personnel using heavy equipment, such as bulldozers and tractors, and wearing safety gear
- Water trucks lightly spraying the soils to prevent dust from becoming airborne
- Air and dust monitoring at site boundaries
- Approximately 20 truck loads of imported clean fill delivered per day to the Site during a five week period.
- Placement of geotextile fabric as a warning barrier over landscaped areas, under fill
- Placement of landscape and hardscape (including building construction)

Truck route

Various trucks will haul in clean soil from the central valley to the site. Construction activities will occur between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Trucks entering and exiting the site will follow the same truck route for each:

- Heading eastbound on Highway (Hwy) 12 to Hwy 49; and
- Heading south on Hwy 49 to Pool Station Road (the school site).

Dust suppression

Dust control measures, including water spraying, will minimize the generation of asbestos into the air. If acceptable levels of airborne dust and asbestos are exceeded, site work will be stopped. Before leaving the site, truck tires will be cleaned to avoid tracking out dust.

Fencing

The entire site will be secured by fencing or barriers during construction so that unauthorized personnel cannot enter the work area.

California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption

DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The NOE document states that the mitigation/removal action will not have the potential for significant negative impacts on the environment. The draft NOE is available for public review in the information repositories.

Next steps

At completion of the 30-day public comment period, DTSC will prepare a "Response to Comments" to address all comments received from the community. Each person who submits comments regarding the proposed cleanup activities will receive a copy of DTSC's "Response to Comments." A copy of DTSC's "Response to Comments" will also be available for review in the information repositories.

For more information

Please contact any of the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have:

For questions regarding the draft RAW, please contact Mr. Bud Duke, DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-3695 or by e-mail to Bduke@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions regarding the public participation activities, please contact Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at toll-free 1 (866) 495-5651 or (916) 255-3651 or by e-mail to Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov.

For questions from the media, please contact Ms. Carol Singleton, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (916) 255-6578 or by e-mail to Csinglet@dtsc.ca.gov.

For more information regarding the Mountain Oaks Charter School and Mountain Ranch Community School and be able to view the the draft RAW please visit the DTSC website:

http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=70000084

Information Repositories

The draft RAW, NOE, and other related documents may be viewed at the following locations:

Calaveras Unified School District
3304 Highway 12
San Andreas, CA 95249
(209) 754-3504

Calaveras County Public Library
San Andreas Central
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249
(209) 754-6510

Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
Phone: (916) 255-3779
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Notice to Hearing Impaired

TDD user can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 and ask to speak with Ms. Kim Rhodes at (916) 255-3651.

Si desea informacion en Espanol, comuniquese con Jesus Cruz, Especialista en Participacion Publica al 1 (866) 495-5651.